

Columbia Gorge Aluminum Public Comment Period Draft Cleanup Documents



Photo courtesy of Garin Shrieve

Comments Accepted

12:01 a.m., April 30 –
11:59 p.m. June 16, 2026

Submit Comments

Online:

bit.ly/4swqHxp



Or by mail:

Dave Johnson, Site Manager
Industrial Section
WA State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Review the documents

Online: bit.ly/ecology11797

In-person

Goldendale Public Library,
131 West Burgen Street

Ecology Lacey Office
300 Desmond Dr.
Lacey, WA
(by appointment only)
360-280-4325

Public comments welcomed on draft cleanup documents

Ecology invites you to comment on the following draft cleanup documents for a portion of the cleanup at the former Columbia Gorge Aluminum Site located at 85 John Day Rd in Goldendale (Klickitat County) for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project:

Cleanup Action Plan (CAP): The proposed plan outlines the cleanup actions required by Ecology in order to remove contaminants to meet health and environmental standards. The final CAP will become an enforceable component of the PPCD (exhibit D of the PPCD).

Legal agreement: Ecology plans to enter into a Prospective Purchaser Consent Decree (PPCD) with FFP Project 101 LLC that requires it to clean up a portion of the former Columbia Gorge Aluminum Site.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS): The remedial investigation outlines testing plans that identify the contamination at the site and its extent. The Feasibility Study evaluates the options for dealing with that contamination.

The cleanup documents propose excavating a formerly closed waste landfill (West Surface Impoundment-WSI) and contaminated soil related to the former aluminum smelter.

Register for the online public meeting and hearing.



bit.ly/Ecology11797meeting

ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov, call 360-280-4325, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit Ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.

Get more information at the virtual hearing.

Attend the virtual public meeting and hearing on ZOOM, June 3, 2026, at 6 p.m. to see a presentation about the cleanup process and the documents available for public comment, ask questions, and offer oral comments about the cleanup documents. Please register for this meeting and hearing at bit.ly/Ecology11797meeting. Registration is required.

Your voice matters

This is an opportunity to have your voice heard and influence the decision-making process. You know about your neighborhood, community, and local conditions and how this cleanup may affect them. Although Ecology is bound by existing state and federal laws, your comments can influence how solutions are achieved.

Background

The Columbia Gorge Aluminum smelter operated under various owners until it closed in 2003. Prior owners managed hazardous and solid waste at several locations on the site. The facility was added to the Hazardous Sites list in 1990. Industrial practices and historical land use by the smelter owners and operators have resulted in contamination at the site. The

investigation, identification of cleanup methods, and cleanup plan for the site, seek to address this contamination in order to redevelop the property.

Ecology issued the final State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Goldendale Energy Storage Project on December 21, 2022, and the Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification on May 22, 2023. The EIS summarizes findings from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) analysis of potential project impacts (including cleanup work). The EIS also describes the steps that can be taken to minimize project impacts. These findings were considered when we developed the draft cleanup action plan.

What happens next?

When the comment period ends, we will review all comments received before we make a final decision on the documents.

If you would like to be added to the list of interested parties for the cleanup at Columbia Gorge Aluminum and receive updates on Ecology's Industrial Section actions at the site, contact Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

En Español

El Departamento de Ecología está comprometido a ofrecer servicios de idioma, incluidos traducción e interpretación, para personas cuyo idioma principal no es el inglés. Para solicitar estos servicios, envíe un correo electrónico a tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov o llame al 360-280-4323. Si llama, pida que le conecten con un intérprete.